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Title:

Speech opening Federal Conference of Associated Bread Manufacturers of Australia-
New Zealand

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, OPENING FEDERAL CONFERENCE
OF ASSOCIATED BREAD MANUFACTURERS OF AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND.

29.10.73

MR OPIE, MR BOBRIGE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING ME HERE TODAY TO OPEN YOUR 59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

I SEE THAT TODAY'S ADVERTISER IS AGAIN FEATURING THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR ORGANISATION. THERE WAS A PARAGRAPH THIS MORNING NOTING THAT ADELAIDE FIRMS AND PERSONS HAVE BEEN SENDING ABOUT 3,000 LBS. OF BREAD TO MELBOURNE DAILY BY EXPRESS TRAINS AND PLANES DURING THE MELBOURNE BREAD STRIKE.

NOW BEFORE MR OPIE RUSHES OUT TO FIRE HIS SALES MANAGER PERHAPS I'D BETTER MENTION THAT IT WAS A PARAGRAPH IN THE 25 YEARS AGO COLUMN.

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BUT IT DOES PROVOKE ONE WISTFUL THOUGHT.....DID ANY OF YOUR INTERSTATE DELEGATES HAPPEN TO BRING A COUPLE OF GALLONS OF PETROL? SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, MAY I FIRST OF ALL WELCOME THE DELEGATES FROM INTERSTATE AND NEW ZEALAND AND ALSO CONGRATULATE MR OPIE ON HIS ELECTION.

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS ONE OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT CONFERENCES EVER COMING AS IT DOES AT A TIME WHEN BREAD MANUFACTURERS - IN COMPANY WITH THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY GENERALLY - HAVE TO DEAL WITH SOME VERY WORRYING PROBLEMS. PERHAPS THE MOST VEXING OF THESE IS THE CURRENT RATE OF INFLATION - A MATTER OF VERY GREAT CONCERN TO EVERYONE, EMPLOYERS, TRADE UNIONS AND HOUSEWIVES.

PAGE 3.

YOU, OF COURSE, AS THE PRODUCERS OF ONE OF THE HOUSEHOLD STAPLES ARE RIGHT ON THE FIRING LINE. AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF SHOES MAY RATE A MENTION IN THE NEWSPAPERS: AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD CAN BE VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF FRONT PAGE TREATMENT.

AS BREAD IS ONE OF THE ITEMS FORMALLY SUBJECT TO PRICE CONTROL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, MY GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE CONTINUING STUDIES OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR PRICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, HAS A KEEN AWARENESS OF THE ECONOMICS OF YOUR INDUSTRY AND OF YOUR EFFORTS TO KEEP COSTS DOWN.

INDEED, THIS IS THE PROPER FORUM FOR ME TO PUT ON RECORD OUR APPRECIATION OF THE CO-OPERATION THE PRICES BRANCH HAS TRADITIONALLY HAD FROM THE BREAD MANUFACTURERS IN THIS STATE.

PAGE 4.

IT'S A RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND I'M SURE YOUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN FAIR IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH YOU.

ANOTHER MATTER WHICH IS OF CONTINUING CONCERN TO YOU AND WHICH WILL COME UP FOR DISCUSSION AT THIS CONFERENCE IS THAT OF EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS. THIS, TOO, IS AN AREA IN WHICH YOUR CONCERN AND THAT OF THE TRADE UNIONS IS SHARED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS TOPIC IS VERY MUCH IN THE NEWS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AT PRESENT BECAUSE OF THE DISPUTE THREATENING FUEL SUPPLIES. NOW, FOR QUITE OBVIOUS REASONS, I DO NOT INTEND TO CANVAS THE MERITS OF THAT DISPUTE HERE EXCEPT TO REPEAT THAT I HOPE IT WILL BE SPEEDILY SETTLED.

PAGE 5.

TALK OF AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF STRIKES AND WILD CHARGES OF INDUSTRIAL ANARCHY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS - AS THE MAN SAID OF THE REPORT OF HIS DEATH - DEFINITELY EXAGGERATED.

CONSIDER THE FACTS: A REPORT PREPARED BY THE ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT OF MY DEPARTMENT JUST LAST WEEK SHOWED THAT WHILE WORKING DAYS LOST AROUND AUSTRALIA IN JULY CONTINUED AT A HEAVY RATE, IN THIS STATE UNREST MADE UP LESS THAN 2% OF THE NATIONAL TOTAL. FURTHER, IN THE SEVEN MONTH PERIOD TO JULY SOUTH AUSTRALIA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 3.2% OF AUSTRALIA'S TOTAL OF WORKING DAYS LOST AS A RESULT OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST. THIS COMPARES VERY FAVOURABLY INDEED WITH THE 9.1% OF THE NATIONAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT LIVING HERE.

PAGE 6.

IT CERTAINLY GIVES THE LIE TO THE EXTREME CLAIMS MADE. IT IS THE RESULT OF A RESPONSIBLE TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP, OF RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYERS AND, I CAN FAIRLY CLAIM, IT IS IN PART THE RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF MY GOVERNMENT.

OUR DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN TO PARTIES IN A DISPUTE WHO WISH TO USE OUR GOOD OFFICES. I BELIEVE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL IN GENERALLY AVOIDING DISRUPTION THAN ANY OTHER IN THIS COUNTRY OR ANY COMPARABLE COUNTRY.

IT'S A RECORD OF WHICH WE ARE PROUD AND WHICH WE ARE DETERMINED SHALL CONTINUE. AND, TO SPEAK BLUNTLY, I THINK THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IF THOSE PEOPLE PRONE TO ABSURD CLAIMS LEFT OFF FLIRTING WITH PROVOKING FURTHER UNREST AND HELPED US TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.

PAGE 7.

AGAIN, WELCOME TO ADELAIDE. I'M SURE YOUR VISITORS WILL FIND DURING THEIR STAY HERE THAT WE'RE LIVING UP TO ANOTHER OF CLAIMS - THAT THIS IS THE VERY BEST OF THE CONVENTION CITIES. I HOPE THAT DURING YOUR STAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SAMPLE THE FACILITIES ON OFFER AS WELL AS HAVE A FRUITFUL AND PROFITABLE CONFERENCE.

THANK YOU.